Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 20, with the following redlined paragraph:

The circuit or some part of it is enabled by receiving an enabling message if the user of the circuit is authorized to operate the circuit. In the case of a PAY-TV device, the user is authorized provided that they have paid for a subscription. A service provider will then provide the appropriate enabling message in encrypted form. On receipt of the enabling message at the interface 43, this is passed to the ~~description~~ decryption circuit 64 (here an AES circuit) over the line 67. The AES circuit decrypts the message using a stored secret key to produce a plain text signal of N bytes. The plain text signal is then compared to a fixed value in the secret store 62. If n bytes of the plain text match the fixed value, as determined by the hardware comparator 66, then the enabling circuit 68 is set to allow the circuit 30 to function by blowing a fuse within the enabling device, for example, or setting or resetting a status flag in non-volatile memory. The enabling circuit 68 is set to allow the circuit 30 to function in various ways including switching a hardware switch in a data path or using bytes within the plain text signal that are not matched with a stored value to set one or more fuses or memory values.